

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-2 are objected to because of the informalities. In response, claim 1 has been amended to overcome the informalities, according to Examiner's helpful suggestion. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 1-2.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83 (a) as failing to show every features of the invention recited in the claims. In response, FIG. 5 has been added to illustrate the features noted in the Office Action and the Specification has been amended to be consistent with FIG. 5. No new matter has been added, because FIG. 5 illustrates the steps included in claims 1 and 2 of the application as originally filed.

In addition, the Examiner contents that "the communication between server application and several client applications of the same workstation" is not shown in the drawings. As shown in FIG. 3, the communication between server 23 and client application 24 is clearly demonstrated. Thus, all of the features listed by the Examiner in the Office Action are sufficiently illustrated in FIG.1 through FIG. 5 of the present application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 2005/0036493) in view of Khalil (US 2003/0002468). Applicant traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Wu discloses a method and apparatus to establish independence between nodes in a distributed network during protection switching. However, Wu does not disclose that failed lines become inactive and protection line becomes active. Indeed, a failure in a working line can be a failure in the signals transmitted by the line, for example a wrong bit in all the messages. A wrong bit will not result in a working line to be inactive. Thus, the "translation module" does not control the switching of the serial lines from an active to an inactive state.

Wu does not disclose that a physical identifier is allocated to each serial line. Indeed, Wu discloses an allocation of physical identifiers for a signal line. It means that multiple physical

identifiers are allocated for only one signal line.

Wu does not disclose that a logical identifier is allocated for each group of serial lines. Indeed, Wu discloses the fixing of only one logical identifier for only one signal line. Wu discloses that there is a remapping of a second physical identifier for a second line physical signal line only in case of a line failure on the first physical signal line. In the present application, there is not any remapping in case of failure. This is an advantage of time efficiency, and for this sort of embodiment, the failure must be transparent for the application involved.

Wu does not disclose communicating with management means in order to determine the active serial line. Indeed, the translation module 104 does not communicate the state of the physical signal line. In the present invention, the communication of the means for managing redundancy allows such means to be used by different sort of systems. The redundancy management means needs an indication about the activation or inactivation of the serial lines they are connected to.

Khalil relates to data transfer an IP mobility system. More specifically, Khalil discloses a system for data transfer between a mobile node and a home network or a foreign network. Nowhere does Khalil disclose that a physical identifier is allocated to each serial line, a logical identifier is allocated for each group of serial lines or communicating with management means in order to determine the active serial line. Indeed, Khalil's network software merely generates logical addressees. Thus, Khalil's network software does not generate messages to transmit to the redundant system. Therefore, Khalil fails to cure the deficiency of Wu.

For the above reasons, even if Wu and Khalil can be combined, Wu and Khalil fail to disclose all of the claimed limitations of claim 1, in particular, a physical identifier is allocated to each serial line, a logical identifier is allocated for each group of serial lines and communicating with management means in order to determine the active serial line. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 recites additional, important limitations and should be patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 as well as on its own merits. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 2 should be withdrawn.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 2005/0036493) in view of Khalil (US 2003/0002468) and Bortoloso (US 2003/0120782). Applicant traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 3 includes similar limitations as claim 1. As discussed above, both Wu and Khalil fail to disclose the server application, which allocates a physical identifier to each serial line, allocates a logical identifier to each group of serial lines and communicates with the management means in order to determine the active serial lines.

Bortoloso discloses a client-server inter process communication, which includes a redundant connection established between the client application and the server application by means of the redundant client physical address and the redundant server physical address in case a predetermined condition is fulfilled. Bortoloso merely mentions if the network selected fails, the communications automatically switches to the other one. However, Bortoloso fails to disclose any detail about the switching process. Thus, Bortoloso fails to cure the deficiency of Wu and Khalil.

For the above reasons, even if Wu, Khalil and Bortoloso can be combined, the combined references fail to disclose all of the limitations of claim 3, in particular, the server application, which allocates a physical identifier to each serial line, allocates a logical identifier to each group of serial lines and communicates with the management means in order to determine the active serial lines. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 3 should be withdrawn.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 2005/0036493) in view of Khalil (US 2003/0002468) and Bortoloso (US 2003/0120782) and further in view of Ahmed (US 6,647,432).

Claim 4 recites additional, important limitations and should be patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 3 as well as on its own merits. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 4 should be withdrawn.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 2005/0036493) in view of Khalil (US 2003/0002468) and Bortoloso (US 2003/0120782) and further in view of Stein (US 5,497,463).

Claim 5 recites additional, important limitations and should be patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 3 as well as on its own merits. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 5 should be withdrawn.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 2005/0036493) in view of Khalil (US 2003/0002468) and Bortoloso (US 2003/0120782) and further in view of Ahmed (US 6,647,432) and Stein (US 5,497,463).

Claim 6 recites additional, important limitations and should be patentable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 3 as well as on its own merits. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 6 should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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